

[18th October 1927]

Reduction of water-tax in Coimbatore.

* 547 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether memorials have been presented to Government by the Municipal Council and citizens of Coimbatore, asking for a reduction in the water-tax to be paid annually by house-owners to the Municipal Council for various reasons;

(b) whether the memorials referred to above asked for the inclusion within municipal limits, of the Central Jail and the Police Recruits School which are entirely surrounded by municipal areas, and the Forest College and Agricultural College which are closely adjoining the municipal limits; and

(c) whether the Government have come to any decision on this matter and if so, to what effect?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Government are not prepared to order the inclusion of the institutions referred to.

Nomination of a Muhammadan to Mannargudi Municipal Council.

* 548 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received a memorial from the Anjuman Jamiyathul Islam Sangam of Mannargudi regarding the nomination of a Muhammadan to the municipal council of that place; and

(b) whether the Government have taken any, and if so, what action in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government propose to appoint a Muhammadan in one of the existing vacancies in the Council.

Village Panchayats*Financial aid to village panchayats.*

* 549 Q.—MR. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what aid was rendered to village panchayats from Provincial funds—

(i) from the start up to the end of 1924-25;

(ii) during the years 1925-26 and 1926-27; and

(b) what aid was rendered to village panchayats from Local Board funds—

(i) from the start up to the end of 1924-25;

(ii) during the years 1925-26 and 1926-27;

(iii) what were the Local Boards that contributed funds with the amounts that they contributed?

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A.—(a) (i) Nil.

(ii) 1925-26—Rs. 8,000 in aid of panchayat libraries.

1926-27—Rs. 70,000 as follows :—

Rs. 10,000 in aid of panchayat libraries.

Rs. 56,000 as teaching grant for panchayat schools.

Rs. 24,000 as equipment grant for panchayat schools.

(b) A statement showing the contributions in money made by taluk boards to panchayats is appended.^a

In addition many remunerative institutions such as markets, fisheries, avenues, etc., have been transferred to panchayats by local boards.

Transfer of the control of forests to village panchayats.

* 550 Q.—MR. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government, the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications were received from village panchayats asking for the transference of control to them of village forests, from whom and on what dates ;

(b) how many such applications have been granted ; and

(c) if applications have been refused, what the reasons for such refusals were ?

A.—(a) One, from Karkal Panchayat in May 1923.

(b) One.

(c) None has been refused.

Introduction of a Bill to consolidate the Village Panchayat Act and the Village Panchayat Courts Act.

* 551 Q.—MR. M. A. MANICKAVELU NAYAGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government proposed to bring in a Bill to consolidate the Village Panchayat Act of 1920 and the Village Panchayat Courts Act ;

(b) if so, why it was shelved ; and

(c) whether the Government now propose to bring a Bill to consolidate the said two Acts ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government proposed to bring a Bill to amend the Madras Village Panchayat Act, 1920, the main object of which was to enable village panchayats to exercise the functions of a Panchayat Court under the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888. The Bill was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 6th May 1924. Before the Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council the Registrar of Panchayats submitted proposals for further amendments with a request that they may also be incorporated in the Bill. These amendments are now under scrutiny.

^a Vide Appendix XII on page 148 infra.